



EXCLUSIVE

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THE ARTICLE IN THE FEBRUARY 1967 ISSUE OF "RAMPARTS"

magazine, breaking the sensational story concerning Central Intelligence Agency subsidies of private student, labor, and educational organizations, has already prompted action by President Johnson to forbid future channeling of CIA funds into groups like the National Student Association. Still another outcome of the controversy may well be closer Congressional supervision of the CIA activities in the future.

An analysis of the backgrounds of those associated with "Ramparts" suggests that the motivation for the magazine's February disclosures was to destroy, or at least weaken, CIA, rendering it incapable of acting as a deterrent to communism abroad.

Founded in 1962 as "the Catholic journal of independent opinion", "Ramparts" magazine has no official ties with the Catholic Church. It is published monthly in San Francisco and, particularly in recent years, has been advocating a consistently leftist philosophy with primary emphasis being placed on a bitter denunciation of American involvement in the war in Vietnam.

"Ramparts" magazine's Editor in Chief, Edward Michael Keating, has made numerous speeches throughout the country criticizing U.S. "intervention" in both Vietnam and the Dominican Republic. In addition, he has been an outspoken critic of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, frequently making baseless charges or allegations concerning the work of that Bureau. In October, 1964, Keating publicly indicated that he was willing to turn over to the Justice Department information he had obtained concerning the murder of three civil rights workers in Mississippi. In making the offer, he charged that the FBI had "not done its job" in locating the guilty parties, implying that FBI officials in Mississippi were sympathetic to the racist slayers. When contacted, however, Keating stated he had never been in Mississippi, and that he had not personally obtained any evidence whatsoever concerning the crime.

The Foreign Editor of "Ramparts" is 31 year-old Robert Scheer, a familiar face in west coast left-wing circles. In 1960, while a graduate student of Economics at the Berkeley campus of the University of California, Scheer was the Research Director for the local chapter of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. During the summer of 1964, he visited communist Cuba "in defiance of U.S. State Department travel restrictions". More recently, he has become extremely active in denouncing U.S. policy toward Vietnam at demonstrations sponsored by the Vietnam Day Committee.

The March 4, 1966 issue of the Berkeley campus newspaper, "The Daily Californian",

reported that Scheer had visited Cambodia as a reporter for "Ramparts" and had talked personally with representatives of communist North Vietnam and the Viet Cong. Scheer was quoted as saying that Cambodia was not being used in any significant way by the Viet Cong in its war with the South Vietnamese.

Washington columnist Carl Rowan, the former head of the U. S. Information Agency, reported on February 24, 1967, that Scheer recently made a secret trip to Prague, Czechoslovakia for the purpose of meeting with officers of the communist-controlled International Union of Students. According to Rowan, the visit raised the question in high quarters of Washington as to just where "Ramparts" is getting its financial backing.

In the spring of 1966, Scheer was an unsuccessful "peace" candidate in the California primaries. He ran against liberal Democrat Congressman Jeffery Cohelan, who represents the Berkeley area, but had given limited support to the U. S. war effort in Vietnam. Scheer's campaign literature boasted that he had been "an activist and leader in (San Francisco) Bay Area protests over the past eight years -- the demonstrations against the House Committee on UnAmerican Activities, the Sheraton Palace and Auto Row civil rights sit-ins, and the recent marches and rallies against American intervention in Vietnam."

The campaign leaflets also boasted that the Scheer for Congress Committee had successfully united in its ranks "socialists, liberal Democrats, radicals, communists, reformers and people who have never before participated in politics."

Stanley K. Sheinbaum, an economist at the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions and a former Campus Director at Michigan State University's Vietnam Advisory Group, is a Consulting Editor of "Ramparts".

Like Scheer, Sheinbaum has been extremely active in west coast leftist activities and has spoken at several protest meetings in California during May and November, 1965, and in March, 1966. Sheinbaum's name appeared on a leaflet distributed by the November 8 Mobilization Committee in October, 1966, protesting American involvement in the Vietnam conflict.

G. M. Feigen is listed as a member of the Board of Directors of "Ramparts" magazine. Now a San Francisco proctologist, Feigen is reported to have received a medical discharge in 1943 from the U. S. Army Medical Corps when he was declared unfit for general service. A medical board had found him to have "hallucinatory experiences, most of which had a sexual background, that is, desires and thoughts for abnormal sexual relationships." This condition was not judged to be service connected inasmuch as Feigen had been receiving treatment for it prior to his entrance into the Army in June, 1941.

Joseph Ippolito is listed as another member of "Ramparts" magazine's Board of Directors. A former resident of Lackawanna, New York, Ippolito was an active member of the Socialist Workers Party in 1962. This organization, self-described as "Trotskyist-Communist", has been cited as "subversive" and placed on the Attorney General's list.

Robert McAfee Brown, listed as an Associate Editor of "Ramparts", signed an editorial which appeared in the June, 1965, issue of "Christianity in Crisis" assailing United States policy and military action in Vietnam. He was also, in 1964, one of the sponsors of the National Committee to Abolish the House Committee on UnAmerican Activities. That organization was cited by the HCUA as communist inspired and controlled.

Jessica Mitford Treuhaft, another Associate Editor of "Ramparts", was identified as a member of the Communist Party, USA, in testimony made before the House Committee on UnAmerican Activities on December 2, 1953, and in June of 1957. When called as a witness before a similar state committee in California, Mrs. Treuhaft repeatedly invoked the protection of the 5th Amendment in refusing to answer questions concerning Communist Party membership and activities.

The official Communist publication, THE WORKER, of January 31, 1967, reported that "Jessica Mitford" had been selected to introduce the Party's General Secretary, Gus Hall, at a gathering of 900 in New York to pay tribute to William L. Patterson -- an admitted Communist. She is the author of the controversial book, "The American Way of Death".

Donald Duncan is listed as a Contributing Editor to "Ramparts". A former U.S. Army Sergeant who has served in Vietnam, Duncan has since his return lashed out at U.S. involvement in the war there, saying on one occasion that the South Vietnamese would be better off under the control of Hanoi's communist boss, Ho Chi Minh.

Saul Landau, a Staff Writer for "Ramparts" magazine, traveled to communist Cuba in 1960, in violation of State Department restrictions. While there, he prepared propaganda films for the Castro government, and following his return to the United States in 1961, Landau has lectured throughout the nation in defense of Castro. His wife, Nina Serrano Landau, was a member of the U.S. delegation to the communist-sponsored World Youth Festival in Moscow in 1957. Following the Festival, she joined several others in the U.S. group on an unauthorized visit to communist China.

The February, 1967, issue of "Ramparts" lists Bob Avakian as one of its Staff Writers. He has actively spoken in behalf of the leftist Students for a Democratic Society, and the Vietnam Day Committee at rallies protesting U.S. involvement in Vietnam. On one occasion, Avakian told his audience that the war in Vietnam is a "racist" war because it is being waged by white Americans against the "yellow people" of South Vietnam.

James F. Colaianni, Managing Editor of "Ramparts", was instrumental in the early part of 1966 in starting the Redwood City Committee Against Napalm -- a group set up to protest the establishment of a napalm production facility by the United Technology Center in the Port of Redwood City, California. Initial efforts of the organization were aimed at blocking the establishment of the plant through legal means, but local courts ruled in favor of the Center.

As chairman of the protest group, Colaianni called several public meetings to protest the new napalm facility. One of these was a "silent protest vigil" in May, 1966, during which several demonstrators were arrested for civil disobedience.

"Ramparts" Staff Writer Peter Collier, in August, 1966, was introduced as a representative of the Californians for Liberal Representation when he lectured at a meeting of the Los Angeles Chapter of the W. E. B. DuBois Clubs. The CLR is a political group whose purpose is to recruit support for leftist and "peace" candidates, while the DuBois group has been described by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover as a "communist front."

Maxwell Geismar, currently a Consulting Editor for "Ramparts" magazine, was listed, in October, 1960, as a member of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

The April 23, 1961 issue of the Communist Party's THE WORKER named Geismar as one of a group protesting the invasion of Cuba (the Bay of Pigs) and he was later listed as a sponsor of a Carl Braden clemency petition in a communication dated August 18, 1961, distributed by the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc. Braden, identified on at least five occasions as a member of the Communist Party in testimony before the House Committee on UnAmerican Activities, had been convicted of contempt of Congress in connection with his refusal to answer questions during an HCUA hearing investigating his Communist membership and activities. The Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc., with which Braden is associated, was formerly known as the Southern Conference for Human Welfare which was cited as a communist front by the HCUA in June, 1947.

Maxwell Geismar's name has also appeared as an honorary sponsor of the Committee for Morton Sobell (convicted with Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, and sentenced to 30 years imprisonment on charges of conspiring to commit espionage on behalf of the Soviet Union).

The October 2, 1961, issue of the "National Guardian" newspaper identified Geismar as one of 54 sponsors of the Monroe Defense Committee, formed to aid Robert F. Williams and four others who were indicted in Monroe, North Carolina in August, 1961, on a charge of kidnapping. Williams fled the country to take up residence in communist Cuba and has been making anti-American broadcasts from Havana for the past six years.

More recently, Geismar was identified in the December 8, 1964 issue of "Challenge", the weekly newspaper of the militantly communist Progressive Labor Party, as a supporter of the newly formed Committee to Defend Resistance to Ghetto Life -- a PLP front organization.

The list of communists, socialists, and radicals associated with "Ramparts" magazine will be continued in the next issue of EXCLUSIVE.

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